Eradication of AIDS

1316. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 2227, given in the Rajya Sabha on the 11th August, 2000 and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that all the steps adopted by Government for eradication of AIDS are not adequate;

(b) if so, the specific reasons for spreading AIDS; and

(c) the effective steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government to eradicate AIDS from the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, as there is no vaccine and drugs to prevent and cure HIV infection effectively, the HIV infection may spread inspite of adequate steps taken by Government. The other reasons for the spread of HIV infection are migration of the population from backward to more advanced parts of the country, prevalence of reproductive tract infections and sexually transmitted diseases and low level of literacy.

(c) Govt. of India has launched comprehensive National AIDS Control Programme with the following key components.

* Reducing the spread of HIV in groups at high risk by identification of target populations and providing peer counselling, condom promotion, treatment of sexually transmitted infections etc.
* Preventive intervention for the genral population by Information, Education and Communication (IEC) and awareness campaign, provision of voluntary testing and counselling, safe blood transfusion services and prevention of occupation exposure.
* Providing financial assistance for opportunistic infections, home and community based care to people living with HIV/AIDS
* Strengthening effectiveness and technical managerial, financial sustainability at National, State and Municipal levels.
* Promoting collaboration amongst public, private and voluntary sector.
* Nation wide Family Health Awareness Campaign once in a year to create awareness among rural and slum populations and promote early detection and prompt treatment of reproductive tract infections, including sexually transmitted diseases.

* Initiation of feasibility study on prevention of mother to child transmission in eleven centres in the country located in high prevalence States of Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Manipur.

Harassment of Patients at AIIMS

1317. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY:
SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item, Doctors Con Job at large in AIIMS, published in the Times of India, dated 10th November, 2000;

(b) if so, Government reaction thereto; and

(c) what steps are proposed to be taken to prevent harassment of bonafide patients at the hand of imposters, pretending to be doctors?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Security staff deployed in the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) patrol the hospital corridors and wards round-the-clock to check movement of unauthorised persons and remove squatters. Some of the cheats and imposters caught by the Security staff have been handed over to the Police. The following measures have been taken to prevent cheats and imposters at AIIMS:

(i) Sign boards in Hindi and English have been placed at important places like OPDs, Casualty and Ward Blocks cautioning people against unkown persons asking for money or any gratification and instructions have been displayed to contact the Security Control Room, Sister-Incharge of Wards or police at AIIMS in such cases.

(ii) Specially trained security guards in plain clothes are keeping vigil over such type of people. Guards in all wards at all entry points have been instructed to keep tight vigil and check on suspicious looking people.